

I write to urge you to reject the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking #02-230, which would limit the functionality of digital television sets. As currently constructed, this •broadcast flag• proposal would hamper innovation in digital televisions and other electronic equipment capable of receiving digital broadcasts.

Viewers (customers) pay for equipment to receive broadcasts AND, as taxpayers, subsidize much of the infrastructure that permits \"the entertainment industry\" to exist. To insist that those customers also be tied to schedules set by the industry is ludicrous.

Once any segment of any broadcast is aired, it seems to me de facto ownership of that segment passes to the viewing public. They've paid for it, they determine its' worth.

If piracy is such a concern, both \"the entertainment industry\" and \"artists\" are perfectly free NOT to USE television ... digital or otherwise ... to hawk their products.

Tell all those good folk to go back to the drawing board to solve their internecine conflicts ... and do so without involving/punishing their customers.

Scotch the \"broadcast flag\" idea. It's a rotten one.